How now, sir John ? quoth I: what, man! be of good cheer. So "a cried out—God, God, God!

first folio.] reads—te for bis nose was as sharp as a pen, and *a table of green fields'* STEEVENS.

These words, " and a table of green fields," are not to be found in the old editions of 1600 and 1608. This nonsense got into all the following editions by a pleasant mistake of the stage editors, who printed from the common piece-meal written parts in the play-house* A table was here directed to be brought in, (it being a scene in a tavern where they drink at parting,) and this direction crept into the text from the margin. Greenfield was the name of the property-man in that time.. who furnished implements, &c. for the actors, *A table of Greenfield's.* POPE.

So reasonable an account of this blunder, Mr. Theobald could not acquiesce in. He thought *a table of Greenfield's,* part of the text, only corrupted, and that it should be read, " he babbled of green fields,"* because men do so in the ravings of a calenture. But he did not consider how ill this agrees with the nature of the knight's illness, who was now in no *babbling* humour: and so far from wanting cooling in *green fields,* that his feet were very cold, and he just expiring. WARBURTON.

Upon this passage Mr. Theobald has a note that fills a page, which I omit in pity to my readers, since he only endeavours to prove what I think every reader perceives to be true, that at this time no *table* could be wanted. Mr. Pope, in an appendix to his own edition in 12mo. seems to admit Theobald's emendation, which we would have allowed to be uncommonly happy, had we not been prejudiced against it by Mr. Pope's first note, with which, as it excites merriment, we are loath to part. JOHNSON.

Had the former editors been apprized, that *table,* in our author, signifies a *pocket-book,* I believe they would have retained it with the following alteration :—"for his nose was as sharp as a pen upon a table of green fells." On *table-books,* silver or steel pens, very sharp-pointed, were formerly and still are fixed to the backs or covers. Mother Quickly compares Falstaff's nose (which in dying persons grows thin and sharp) to one of those *pens,* very properly, and she meant probably to have said, on a

*table-book* with a *shagreen cover* or *shagreen table:* but, in her usual blundering way, she calls it *a table of green fells,* or a table covered with *green skin:* which the blundering transcriber turned into *green fields :* and our editors have turned the prettiest blun-<
der in Shakspeare, quite out of doors. SMITH*

Dr. Warburton objects to Theobald's emendation, on the ground of the nature of Falstaff's illness ; " who was so far from *babbling,* or wanting *cooling* in *green fields,* that his feet